

Transcript of the Testimony of

Date: January 16, 2018

Case: PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF OGDEN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO AND EDWARD
JENNER ELEMENTARY ACADEMY OF ARTS

TOOMEY REPORTING

312-853-0648

January 16, 2018

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IN RE: THE COMMUNITY MEETING NO. 2 FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSOLIDATION OF OGDEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO
AND EDWARD JENNER ELEMENTARY ACADEMY OF ARTS

JANUARY 16, 2018

7:03 p.m.

1
2 The proceedings had in the
3
4 above-referenced matter taken at Jenner Academy
5
6 of the Arts, 1119 North Cleveland Avenue,
7
8 Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, January 16, 2018,
9
10 commencing at 7:03 p.m.

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APPEARING ON BEHALF OF CPS:

MS. CHERYL NEVINS, Presenter

MR. BRIAN METCALF, Facilitator

MS. NATASHA PATTERSON, Deputy Chief of
Schools

P R O C E E D I N G S:

* * *

MR. METCALF: Good evening, everyone. We are getting ready to begin the community meeting on the proposed Ogden-Jenner merger, but before we begin, is there anybody that needs the assistance of a sign language interpreter? Is there anybody that needs the assistance of a bilingual Spanish interpreter?

Those services are here, and the sign language interpreter as well as the bilingual interpreter will remain until the end of the meeting.

One comment before I begin. At some point we will dim the lights so that everybody can see the presentation that is behind us now. We'll slide over to make sure that everyone can see it.

So before we begin, I would like to welcome everyone. I would like to thank you for coming to speak with us today. This meeting is part of the proposed Ogden and Jenner consolidation which was formally proposed on December 1st of 2017 after months of community engagement leading up to the announcement.

1 My name is Brian Metcalf and I am the
2 chief officer for Network 6 for Chicago Public
3 Schools. I am here with Cheryl Nevins who is
4 from the Office of Demographics and Planning, as
5 well as Natasha Patterson who is the deputy
6 chief of schools for Network 6 for Chicago
7 Public Schools. We are here today on behalf of
8 our interim CEO Dr. Janice Jackson to share some
9 basic information and to hear from you about
10 this specific proposal.

11 Will you please dim the lights? As I
12 mentioned a moment ago, the purpose of this
13 meeting is to allow CEO Jackson and the Board
14 office to hear feedback from you about the
15 specific proposal under discussion. I will
16 start by running through a brief introduction
17 and logistics again, and then Cheryl Nevins will
18 run through a brief presentation providing
19 information related to the proposed action.

20 After this, we will allot the remaining
21 time for public comment. The meeting will end
22 promptly at 8:00 p.m. In addition, we will have
23 representatives from the office of ODLSS which
24 is the Office of Diverse Learners and Support.
25 We also have a member from the Talent team so
26 that's for human resources. And we also have a
27 member from Students in Transition Living or
28 Temporary Living, and then Laura Gadrey

1 (phonetic) from the Office of Social and
2 Emotional Learning.

3 This group of people will be available
4 30 minutes after the conclusion of the community
5 meeting to answer questions you may have
6 specific to their area of expertise. Please
7 note that these members are not formally a part
8 of the community meeting and the stenographer
9 and note taker will not be present to record
10 comments made.

11 If you did not have a chance to come in
12 early or do not wish to provide your comments at
13 this meeting, there are a couple other ways you
14 can submit your comments, and one of those ways
15 is to transitions@cps.edu. You can also submit
16 written comments at the registration table. A
17 staff member at the desk will provide note cards
18 for written comments. If you have not received
19 one yet, please feel free to stand outside at
20 the table where you sign in and you can get a
21 comment card.

22 So again, if you do not wish to speak
23 in this public setting, we still want to hear
24 your comments and so you can do that by
25 submitting your comments to transitions@cps.edu
26 or you can use the note cards provided out at
27 the resource table.

28 For additional information, please

1 reference the transition plan regarding this
2 school action at cps.edu/transitions. In
3 addition, meeting notes from each community
4 meeting will be available online at
5 cps.edu/transitions within five days of this
6 meeting.

7 Again, if you have any questions
8 regarding or surrounding the proposed transition
9 meeting, you may access that at
10 cps.edu/transitions, and likewise within five
11 days you can go to cps.edu/transitions and
12 receive a summary of all of the questions or
13 comments that will be asked tonight.

14 And at this moment I am going to turn
15 it over to Cheryl Nevins who is going to take us
16 through some of the highlights of the proposed
17 action.

18 MS. NEVINS: Thank you, Brian. We're
19 on Slide 4.

20 So with respect to this process, it's a
21 part of a larger legal process, and again I'm
22 just going to outline those two dates. October
23 1st, CPS published draft guidelines for school
24 actions. On December 1st, CPS proposed school
25 actions, and sent notice letters and draft
26 transition plans. Final transition plans will
27 occur in the spring after the action is voted
28 upon by the Board.

1 You should expect final transition
2 plans to be ready at that time, but just to note
3 that the draft transition plan is a breathing
4 working document that in response to the school
5 community meetings that we're having tonight and
6 we had last week, that this is the opportunity
7 to be heard for leadership to consider some of
8 these ideas to incorporate into the updated
9 draft plan.

10 January 2018 is where CPS will hold two
11 community meetings. This is our second of those
12 two community meetings tonight, and we will hold
13 one public hearing down at Central Office on
14 January 25th 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

15 February 2018 or later CPS can make
16 recommendations to the Board after these
17 community meetings and the public hearing and
18 the Board will vote on any recommended school
19 action, so the Board may vote as early as the
20 February Board meeting.

21 With respect to our engagement, where
22 we are to date, the community engagement process
23 started back in 2015. A steering committee was
24 formed in the spring of 2016. There were three
25 well-attended community meetings, one in
26 February of 2017, March of 2017, and April of
27 2017.

28 In addition to that, we know in the

1 past year many of our students have participated
2 in JOLT activities, Jenner and Ogden Learning
3 Together, and staff at both Ogden and Jenner
4 have worked as stated at many SEED activities
5 with respect to racial implicit bias training
6 and diversity training.

7 Some of the key things we have heard so
8 far is the desire to keep the International
9 Baccalaureate program and provide robust
10 academic supports to our transitioning students,
11 the desire to maintain Jenner's strong culture,
12 including teachers and staff, and continuing the
13 N.E.S.T. philosophy. Other items that we heard
14 is a necessity for transportation to be provided
15 between Jenner and Ogden East campuses,
16 additional activities and training to bring
17 school communities together which would include
18 parents, teachers, and students.

19 We also heard Grades K to 4 at Ogden
20 East as well as serving Grades 5 through 8 here
21 in the Jenner building, and lastly we have heard
22 about a desire for Jenner's current 8th grade
23 students, if they choose, to have the option to
24 enroll in Ogden International for 9th grade.

25 And I said lastly, but there is one
26 other important item. We have heard that it is
27 a necessity and a need to have a pre-K class
28 here at the Jenner facility.

1 As you'll see in the overview of the
2 proposed school action, Ogden International
3 would have three buildings. Ogden's boundary
4 would include Jenner's current boundary. There
5 would be no changes to Ogden West. It would
6 serve Grades 9 through 12 at that building, and
7 once against Jenner 8th grade students would
8 have the ability to enroll in Ogden West if they
9 choose for 9th grade.

10 The three-building footprint would look
11 like this: 24 West Walton would serve Grades K
12 to 4, 1119 North Cleveland would serve Grades 5
13 to 8, and 1250 West Erie would serve Grades 9
14 through 12.

15 Some of the more specific details of
16 the proposal -- and again, as Brian indicated,
17 you can look on the CPS Transitions website if
18 you are looking for more details, but I would
19 like to highlight a few for you now.

20 CPS has budgeted approximately 1.8
21 million over the next three and a half years to
22 support the transition of the students. We do
23 have a budget meeting coming up at the end of
24 this month where we can begin to look at the
25 specifics with respect to what the needs would
26 be this semester if the action was voted upon,
27 as well as outlining needs for year one and year
28 two, again if the action was voted upon.

1 Staffing supports. There would be an
2 assistant principal, a school counselor, and a
3 school clerk at each of the three buildings.
4 There would be a principal and a school-based
5 transition coordinator to assist with the
6 implementation of new programs and practices at
7 each school. The principal transition
8 coordinator would be a retired administrator
9 working with the staff at both Ogden and Jenner.

10 The school-based transition coordinator
11 is perceived to be more of a parent-student
12 liaison to assist with the transitioning
13 process, and I believe both of those job
14 opportunities are posting immediately so that if
15 the action were to be voted upon, we could get
16 some support in place right away.

17 Such an office would be providing
18 additional professional development for all
19 teachers and, lastly, providing IB training this
20 spring, as early as this spring to those
21 teachers not previously trained in IB.

22 So additional details of the proposal
23 are School Climate Supports, creation of a joint
24 Culture and Climate Team as well as a joint
25 Behavioral Team. This will be something that
26 would occur this semester as well.

27 The implementation of Responsive
28 Classroom, SELF, a restorative practice coach

1 from Central Office in the schools at least once
2 a week, and again we would make a commitment to
3 continue the work that has been started at both
4 Jenner and Ogden continuing to focus on
5 diversity, inclusion, and cultural and racial
6 awareness.

7 Again, we would continue to work with
8 the students with JOLT activities and the
9 integration activities that the staff at both
10 Ogden and Jenner have done through SEED.

11 Lastly, some of the logistical supports
12 of the proposal are transportation between
13 Jenner and Ogden East would be provided. We
14 would discuss and explore standard start times
15 for the three-building footprint. We would
16 review security officer staffing levels and the
17 need for Safe Passage program for students
18 traveling to the new school, and district
19 representatives from ODLSS will work with
20 families and students during this transition and
21 continue to work with them.

22 At this time I'm going to turn the
23 microphone back over to Brian so that we can --
24 Mr. Metcalf, excuse me -- so that we can begin
25 our public comment.

26 MR. METCALF: Thank you, Cheryl.

27 We're getting ready to begin the public
28 comments section, but before we do, I want to

1 make sure that we go over a few kind of
2 logistical things that we need to make sure we
3 take care of prior to actually starting.

4 So during public participation, each
5 speaker that has signed up to speak will have
6 two minutes to share their thoughts. You will
7 get a one-minute mark, then a 30-second mark,
8 and then finally a sign that will indicate when
9 your remaining time is up.

10 Speakers, we are asking that you
11 approach the podium and make sure that when
12 you -- before you speak, give your name, speak
13 slowly so that our stenographer can capture the
14 full spelling of your name, and your affiliation
15 with either Ogden and/or Jenner, so parent,
16 community member, teacher, parent, student.

17 So in addition, we want to make sure
18 that for the allocation of time, we need to make
19 sure that everybody that has signed up to be
20 heard, we're going to ask that you strictly
21 adhere to the two-minute time period. There
22 might be additional opportunities for you to
23 speak again. We'll go into that a little bit
24 later.

25 This meeting is scheduled to end at
26 8:00 p.m. The comment period will last until
27 the scheduled end time of the meeting. If there
28 is time remaining, we are going to open it up

1 again for you to go and reregister and sign up
2 again.

3 So, for example, if we're finished with
4 the public comment section at 7:15, we are
5 required by law to remain here until 8:00 p.m.,
6 and so with that remaining 45 minutes, if in
7 your two minutes you were not able to convey all
8 of your thoughts, you can go back and sign up
9 again and then receive another index card to
10 approach the podium again, but we will give
11 priority to anyone that didn't sign up for the
12 first round, they will have priority the second
13 time.

14 To begin public comments, I would like
15 to thank and welcome Principal Michael Beyer
16 from Ogden and Principal Kelly Shelton, the
17 principal the Jenner. Can we give them a round
18 of applause?

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. METCALF: And then we have Alicia
21 Ivy, a representative from Walter Burnett's
22 office that is here representing Alderman
23 Burnett. Can we give her a round of applause?

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. METCALF: So at this moment I am
26 going down the list and then we will begin. As
27 I call numbers, we ask that you approach the
28 podium and then we'll start at that point. So

1 can we have speakers 1 through 10 approach the
2 podium? So if your card has a number of 1
3 through 10, can you please approach the podium?
4 Speakers 1 through 10. Thank you.

5 Can you state your name slowly and your
6 affiliation with either Ogden and/or Jenner?
7 And can you spell your first and last name for
8 us so that the stenographer can make sure that
9 she has the correct spelling? Because keep in
10 mind that these -- this report will be published
11 within five days and we want to make sure that
12 we have as much accurate information as we can.
13 Thank you. Speakers 1 through 10.

14 MS. JUSTICE STAMPS: Justice,
15 J-u-s-t-i-c-e, Stamps, S-t-a-m-p-s. So I have a
16 couple of -- so should I start?

17 So you noted that you all started the
18 official process in 2015, so that means that we
19 are two plus years in the making of us not
20 having established boundaries, clear-cut
21 boundaries. You all glossed over a little bit
22 about maintaining Jenner's boundaries.

23 However, the boundaries that were
24 previously in place for Ogden were skewed and
25 actually probably borderline illegal if you ask
26 me. So I want to know, how are you all
27 revisiting those boundaries?

28 Our concern about the training for

1 parents on racial sensitivity, you all flew over
2 that part as well. In the previous public
3 meetings that I have attended, it was clear cut
4 to me that several of your parents from one of
5 the merging schools definitely would clear cut
6 need this training.

7 So I think that you all need to be more
8 explicit on what that training will be and how
9 parents would be incorporated in that. Because
10 from my experience in working with students from
11 Jenner Academy and their conversations, they
12 don't have a problem with getting along.

13 The third concern, which is an
14 extremely important concern, is I walked in a
15 few minutes late. So did I miss the part where
16 you guys talked about the Jenner name and Jenner
17 branding and keeping Jenner? Why is it becoming
18 Ogden International three-building anything?

19 Is that going to be explained somewhere
20 explicitly or was that explained in another
21 meeting? What is the input as it relates to
22 that? Because Jenner cannot move its branding,
23 and I don't think that it should just become
24 Ogden International across the Board.

25 And the last part is actually directed
26 specifically to Walter Burnett's spokesperson
27 for the day. It is so noted that he was at the
28 other meeting at the other school but he is

1 absent tonight. Pass that message.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. JUSTICE STAMPS: And my affiliation
4 is I'm a former teacher at Jenner and I want a
5 community center in the program to service
6 Jenner students.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. KACHORIS: Good evening. My name
9 is Ianna Kachoris spelled I-a-n-n-a, last name
10 spelled K-a-c-h-o-r-i-s.

11 I am the parent of an Ogden student and
12 a proud alum of Chicago Public Schools. I am
13 proud to stand before you this evening and
14 wholeheartedly give my endorsement to support
15 the Ogden and Jenner merger.

16 To the last speaker's point, I would
17 also agree that we need to honor the history of
18 Jenner and suggest that we call it Jenner Ogden
19 International School of Chicago.

20 There are several reasons I support the
21 idea and am proud to be part of this effort.
22 First and foremost, it is the just thing to do.
23 There is no justifiable reason that children
24 should have disparate education just because
25 they live on one side of a boundary that was
26 gerrymandered over 50 years ago to separate the
27 children of the Gold Coast from the children of
28 Cabrini-Green.

1 None of us here are responsible for
2 designing the neighborhood boundary maps, but if
3 we do not seize this opportunity to change them,
4 we are complicit. If the moral argument does
5 not sway you, there are several more that I
6 think make this school action stand on its
7 merits.

8 First, the proposal is evidence based.
9 I spend my days working on how research can
10 better inform policy and practice, and I
11 most recently led a research initiative at the
12 MacArthur Foundation and now work at the
13 University of Chicago on urban policy
14 and research.

15 The evidence is solid. School
16 integration efforts have one of the highest
17 returns on investment of any educational
18 intervention and have positive benefit for all
19 kids.

20 Second, this proposal is data driven.
21 An independent consultant was hired to conduct
22 quantitative and qualitative analysis providing
23 a substantive look at the demographics, space
24 considerations, concerns and hesitations voiced
25 by both, both communities. It was an important
26 step in identifying how both schools can benefit
27 from this school action.

28 The proposal was also conclusively

1 developed. The Steering Committee is comprised
2 of faith leaders, parents, community members,
3 and teachers from both schools. It has taken
4 hard work and true commitment to honor the
5 voices and perspectives of everyone so that we
6 can have a plan that reflects what is in the
7 best interests of both schools and honors the
8 best of what each school has to offer.

9 Finally, this proposal is community
10 driven and supported. The engagement of the
11 Steering Committee has been persistent and the
12 quality of the transition plan reflects a shift
13 that we have seen from CPS to here and be
14 responsive to our prodding.

15 If I could just finish with one more
16 last point. It's really difficult to not invoke
17 Dr. Martin Luther King as he discussed this
18 idea. He said, "The ultimate measure of a man
19 is not where he stands in moments of comfort and
20 convenience, but where he stands at times of
21 challenge and controversy."

22 It is time for all of us to get
23 uncomfortable and do the hard work so that our
24 kids can be proud of a community that supports
25 each of them to learn life and from each other
26 and to succeed in school and life. Our kids
27 deserve nothing less.

28 (Applause.)

1 MS. NEWMARK: Good evening. My name is
2 Stefanie Newmark, S-t-e-f-a-n-i-e N-e-w-m-a-r-k,
3 and I am a middle school diverse learner teacher
4 at Ogden International.

5 I became a teacher because I believe
6 all students can learn and all students deserve
7 the right to an equal education. Ogden has the
8 same philosophy, which is why I wanted to teach
9 there. At Ogden, all students are included
10 within the general education setting.

11 Teachers use differentiation in order
12 to reach each individual student in the
13 classroom. Differentiation can range from
14 teaching the same material for the whole class
15 using various learning styles to flexible
16 grouping wherein the teacher delivers the same
17 lesson at varying levels of difficulty.

18 Teachers are constantly collaborating
19 with both diverse learner teachers and grade
20 level teams in order to accommodate and modify
21 content to meet the needs of each student in the
22 class. Some can argue that they don't believe
23 that we can reach both excelling and struggling
24 students in one classroom, but at Ogden this is
25 done every day with success.

26 I strongly believe that with teamwork
27 and collaboration we can integrate Jenner and
28 Ogden students in a classroom and deliver

1 various levels of content that engages and
2 promotes learning of each individual student.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. KACHORIS: Good evening. My name
6 is Thea Kachoris, first name T-h-e-a, last name
7 K-a-c-h-o-r-i-s.

8 That was my sister that spoke a couple
9 people ago, and she clearly has the speaking
10 gene. I do not.

11 But I did want to also get up and speak
12 in strong support of the merger, and I would
13 also like to thank everyone that has been
14 engaged in this process over the last couple of
15 years on both sides of this because it's because
16 of people that have been pushing us to make sure
17 we're including in this transition plan the key
18 important topics, and I also echo being able to
19 keep the history of Jenner included as we move
20 forward in how we think about the names of the
21 school and bring these schools together. So I
22 agree with those comments as well.

23 I also want to say that I've spent
24 countless hours over the last couple of years
25 talking to individuals about the benefits and
26 challenges of this merged Jenner and Ogden.
27 With others, we shared information to CPS to
28 help inform this draft transition plan. We put

1 in steps to ensure that the transition plan was
2 as detailed as possible and that it addressed
3 the questions and concerns raised by both school
4 communities.

5 And as my sister said as well, we have
6 seen the leadership from CPS and they have
7 greatly valued the input that we have provided
8 and have tried to address as many of the
9 concerns and considerations that we have brought
10 forward.

11 We know that this merger is going to
12 take a lot of hard work and we expect that both
13 school communities continue to be engaged and
14 hold CPS accountable throughout this entire
15 process.

16 So that's all I wanted to say, but I
17 also wanted to make sure as we're here tonight
18 that we really are listening to the Jenner
19 voice because that is so important. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. WOODBERRY: Good evening. My name
22 is Kenya Woodberry, K-e-n-y-a W-o-o-d-b-e-r-r-y,
23 and I'm a senior at Ogden.

24 I thoroughly enjoy spending my time at
25 Jenner and interacting with the students.
26 Growing up in Chicago's public school system, I
27 noticed the lack of genuine relationships
28 between students and faculty. I began working

1 together every week with Mr. Castro on Fridays
2 and I feel the relationship with all the
3 students that I have come in contact with. I
4 actually value all these relationships.

5 I think that it's important for Jenner
6 students to know that they have support
7 (inaudible).

8 I also wanted to add that me and other
9 students of Ogden are so devoted and committed
10 to making sure that these healthy relationships
11 and any relationships are formed, that we have
12 created a place where students teach staff
13 members how to communicate (inaudible).

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. FINEBERG: Hi. I'm Leslie
16 Fineberg. I'm an Ogden parent and an Ogden
17 alumni.

18 My first question is, \$1.8 million
19 sounds like a lot of money, but as you walk
20 through the school here, there are no lockers.
21 My hope is that that expense is not going to
22 come out of the \$1.8 million.

23 I would also like to know in terms of
24 money, how is CPS going to make up for the
25 millions of dollars in Title I funding that is
26 going to be lost that Jenner has now when we
27 merge? All of these services that are going to
28 be required cost money, and that \$1.8 million is

1 a drop in the bucket. If CPS really wants to
2 make this a successful consolidation, they need
3 to step up to the plate.

4 My biggest concern is that Jenner is
5 not a community school and Ogden is borderline a
6 community school, and with this merger these
7 boundary lines create the largest school
8 district within CPS, probably within the state,
9 and it will no longer be a community school.

10 How is CPS going to deal with that and
11 what are they going to do? I have said at
12 meetings in the past there are 5,000 new homes
13 being built in the Jenner school district over
14 the next three to five years. If we're not
15 overcrowded now, we're going to be overcrowded
16 in three to five years.

17 Now is the time to redraw boundaries
18 and make this a success. We're setting this up
19 for failure because all of a sudden you are
20 going to have a building boom and I keep getting
21 told that it's going to be people coming in that
22 don't have families yet and there is going to be
23 newborns and it's going to be five years until
24 their children are school age, and I don't buy
25 that for a second.

26 I think that there are thousands of
27 families buying in this area who are not sending
28 their children to Jenner but who will send their

1 children to Ogden if this merger goes through,
2 and that's a great thing.

3 I think that desegregation and merging
4 these schools has some phenomenal qualities, but
5 I have huge concerns as a parent and as a
6 community member that it just isn't going to
7 work because nobody is thinking far enough into
8 the future.

9 I heard one of the speakers talk about
10 disparate education. You would assume that if a
11 principal has a right to hire the teachers that
12 they want to hire, that the education should be
13 extremely similar. They are not. But that's
14 not the fault of the Jenner students or the
15 Jenner community.

16 Finally, I would ask for a parent vote
17 at both schools to determine what the true
18 percentage of parents of actual schools --
19 sorry -- students who attend the schools is in
20 favor of this merger. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. TAYLOR: We are going to move on to
23 the next set of numbers.

24 MR. METCALF: We are going to go to
25 Nos. 11 through 20, Nos. 11 through 20. Are we
26 ready? Begin.

27 MS. WALKER: Hi. My name is Kourtney
28 Walker. First name K-o-u-r-t-n-e-y, last name

1 W-a-l-k-e-r.

2 I'm a senior at Ogden, and as a member
3 of the Black Student Union, I know there are a
4 variety of positive spaces for young black minds
5 to come together. They have constantly been
6 created.

7 Our student organizer, Mr. Castro, had
8 told me about his work with youth at Jenner, and
9 I was encouraged to participate in a mentorship
10 program here. My job was to first observe and
11 then help with acceptance.

12 I had never participated in any type of
13 interim program, and I feel grateful for being
14 able to interact with these students in a way
15 that I wish all staff interacted with me as a
16 student and as a person.

17 So it's important to build these
18 relationships without students feeling inferior
19 but also being able to look up to me.
20 Therefore, I'm in favor of this merger as long
21 as it's genuine.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. JACKSON: Good evening. My name is
24 Jezail Jackson, that's J-e-z-a-i-l
25 J-a-c-k-s-o-n, and I am a 1st grade teacher at
26 Ogden East.

27 So I wanted to just briefly speak on a
28 couple of things. As a teacher and parent that

1 has gone through a school closing -- I was
2 actually a teacher at a school that closed
3 during the 50 closings back in 2014, so I know
4 how it feels to be on both sides of the fence
5 here.

6 I want parents to really understand
7 that there is a lot of value in an IB education,
8 and I want them to feel that this merger is kind
9 of at the forefront of student safety. For
10 example, students in the classroom, within the
11 curriculum there is so many opportunities for a
12 student to learn different values.

13 One of the quotes that my students
14 learned just last week and was able to actually
15 take back to their parents I wanted to speak on.
16 It's, "Our lives begin to end the day they
17 become silent about things that matter."

18 First graders are learning things like
19 this, and they're able to talk to their parents
20 about it and their friends about it. And so
21 throughout the school students have a safe
22 space, and throughout the school community I
23 just kind of wanted to let parents know that
24 there are teachers and there are staff members
25 and community members that do support students
26 no matter what they look like, no matter where
27 they're from. And at Ogden the goal really is
28 to meet the needs of all students by using

1 differentiation throughout all subjects; for
2 example, reading, writing workshops, small group
3 instruction during math, at centers and
4 activities.

5 And the previous teacher that spoke
6 kind of spoke a little bit about making sure
7 that we meet students where they are. That's
8 very important, and that's what we do. So I
9 just wanted to point that out a little bit.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. WAGNER: Hello. I'm Jeff Wagner,
13 J-e-f-f W-a-g-n-e-r. I'm a teacher at Ogden
14 Middle School, West Campus. This is my eighth
15 year at Ogden. I'm a national board certified
16 teacher. I'm the department chair for Grades 6
17 through 12.

18 I heard that at previous meetings there
19 may be some concerns that teachers will have a
20 tough time at Ogden meeting students that are
21 learning at different levels. I heard my
22 colleague Stefanie and another colleague just
23 speak about this.

24 So if you think that's not happening
25 already at Ogden or at Ogden West or the middle
26 school, you're mistaken. We have a huge
27 diversity of students, not just within grades
28 but within classrooms, and as my colleagues have

1 talked about, we are teaching and meeting them
2 where they are.

3 This is not just teachers and what we
4 think. In my 8th grade class, students that are
5 included have ability levels and (inaudible)
6 expected progress from winter to winter, and 80
7 percent have made the progress that they are
8 supposed to. 90 percent of students have made
9 progress in the first place. So this is
10 happening.

11 So there was a little bit about it
12 before, but in the middle school there is
13 individualized to a certain extent reading
14 assignments. Students read their own novels
15 selected at their own levels. Students are
16 reading nonfiction, so the class will be reading
17 all of the factual information but from articles
18 at different levels. Many times students don't
19 even realize this is happening. There are
20 curriculum training where students often work
21 with students at their level or work with other
22 students.

23 And we believe it's the best thing to
24 do, that learning is not just talking about data
25 and reading skills, but learning about
26 diversity, and you learn about diversity from as
27 many different people as you can.

28 Someone mentioned to me, At such and

1 such other school, they compete with us, I won't
2 name it, where a child has a test score
3 (inaudible). That's all I want to say.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. SHEREYK: Okay. I'm a teacher. So
6 my name is Kelly Shereyk, K-e-l-l-y
7 S-h-e-r-e-y-k.

8 I'm a middle school math teacher at
9 Ogden West campus, and it is my privilege to be
10 here to talk to you to support the merger that
11 is happening or may happen between Jenner and
12 Ogden.

13 Most importantly though, my colleagues
14 Stefanie and Mr. Wagner, Jeff, we really wanted
15 to talk about the concern about differentiation
16 and what does that look like when you have
17 students in your classroom of many different
18 ability levels which we have at Ogden?

19 We have students who test in the 1st
20 percentile and we have students who test in the
21 90th percentile. And as a math person, how do I
22 meet their needs? How do we meet their needs as
23 a diverse learner teacher? How do we meet their
24 needs as an English teacher?

25 And I'm going to tell you something:
26 the Ogden Campus is magical. It really is,
27 because you have teachers that are collaborating
28 and working together so hard to meet the needs

1 of every kid. At the end of every day we are
2 looking at one another saying, Am I meeting
3 their needs? What can I do differently? What
4 can I change?

5 We are very passionate about that. But
6 not only that, I have had the privilege of being
7 a part of SEED. I have gotten to meet the
8 Jenner teachers and, my goodness, guess what?
9 They are in on the same exact thing we are.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. SHEREYK: They love their students,
12 and we love our students, and we can all love
13 them together. So it is with great pride that I
14 tell you that we can meet their needs.

15 Believe in us. Believe in us as
16 teachers because we are really good at what we
17 do. All right? Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 RABBI LIMMER: My name is Seth Limmer,
20 S-e-t-h L-i-m-m-e-r. I'm the senior rabbi at
21 Chicago Sinai Congregation and co-chair of the
22 Jenner Ogden Community Steering Committee.

23 At Chicago Sinai Congregation, this
24 weekend as we were in touch with trying to learn
25 from being inspired to move to action from the
26 teachings of Dr. King, we reflected on his
27 sermon from 1967 to the conference of the SCLC.
28 Where do we go from here?

1 A good question for us tonight.
2 Towards the end of his sermon, he had these two
3 sentences that we shared from our pulpit. "Let
4 us be dissatisfied until the dark yesterdays of
5 segregated schools will be transformed into
6 bright tomorrows of quality, integrated
7 education. Let us be dissatisfied
8 until integration is not seen as a problem but
9 as an opportunity to participate in the beauty
10 of diversity."

11 Certainly working with the Jenner Ogden
12 Steering Committee and getting to know this
13 community is to get in touch with the beauty of
14 diversity. And as for the final community
15 meeting -- there is more hearings but this is
16 the final community meeting -- I think all of us
17 can reflect on how our relationship with CPS and
18 the community has grown from looking for best
19 practices for doing what's right and for trying
20 to obtain that beauty of diversity.

21 But Dr. King also spoke about
22 dissatisfaction, and on behalf of the entire
23 steering committee, I want to talk about our
24 continuing dissatisfaction that we pledge for
25 the future. It won't be easy going forward, and
26 the Steering Committee is not going to go away
27 if this merger happens. But this Steering
28 Committee is here to help make sure this merger

1 works in the year before it happens, in the year
2 when it happens, and that we stay together and
3 grow together as a community in all the years
4 that come after that, from all the things we
5 have tried to do in the last three years,
6 through learning, through hearing, and to
7 figuring out ways to come to wonderful solutions
8 together.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. METCALF: And now we're going to
11 have speakers No. 30 -- sorry -- 21 to 30, 21
12 through 30. Thank you all for all that have
13 gone. State your name and spell it and state
14 your affiliation with either Ogden and/or
15 Jenner. Speaker Nos. 21 through 30.

16 MS. SHELTON: Kelly Shelton, K-e-l-l-y
17 S-h-e-l-t-o-n, Interim Principal at Jenner.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. SHELTON: Do not include that
20 introduction in my time, please. Thank you to
21 our Interim CEO, Dr. Janice Jackson. Thank you
22 to your network chief Mr. Brian Metcalf, and
23 thank you to my colleague and friend, Dr. Beyer.

24 So he put me up to this. I just want
25 you to know, okay? But in all honesty, I wanted
26 to speak tonight, not last week, but tonight
27 since we are in my home away from home, and
28 initially I wasn't sure how I wanted to present

1 my thoughts. I asked myself should I just be
2 still while others speak? Should I come forward
3 and give a declarative and just state, I'm for
4 the merger between Jenner and Ogden, and exit?

5 No to both. And instead I want to have
6 your attention right now. This is a personal
7 moment in time for me. I was sitting in I-55 in
8 brutal traffic, as I do in the mornings and
9 evenings from Jenner to home since December of
10 2016. And I'm sitting in my car wondering what
11 will I put on for dinner for the family and
12 reflecting on my day of what went well at Jenner
13 and what did not go well at Jenner. And a
14 powerful whisper in my ear came, Read the back
15 of the truck, Kelly.

16 I said, Okay. Is this you, God?

17 And the words spoke to me. The
18 opportunity God has for you is right in front of
19 you.

20 And I paused and I thought about it,
21 and it was God. I actually believe that in my
22 heart of hearts and in my faith. This
23 opportunity is about bringing Jenner and Ogden
24 together. This opportunity will make a
25 difference. This opportunity will mobilize my
26 own efforts and the efforts of others right here
27 right now in the merger between Jenner and
28 Ogden.

1 This opportunity can and will create
2 extraordinary change. This opportunity can and
3 will eradicate trepidation, uncertainty, and
4 surely we can eradicate ignorance, hatred as we
5 bring all together from all backgrounds.

6 So I will take this position right now
7 in this moment in time. This opportunity can
8 and will bring renewed faith into our hearts
9 coupled with fortitude and love and inspiration
10 now and for years to come, and even though this
11 opportunity, this merger -- I'm not going to say
12 potential merger -- this merger has been mocked
13 and it's feared by some. Sadly, it has.

14 But guess what? This merger will
15 further the alliance until spirits of these
16 young students from both communities have
17 reached its victory. These young human beings
18 are intellectual. These young human beings are
19 civil, powerful, and unequivocally beautiful.
20 And this precedent action will provide
21 world-class education that is paramount to all
22 of the learning institutions.

23 So I do support this merger, and I
24 close by stating respectfully, please know that,
25 because my boss is sitting right here. Okay?
26 Respectfully because that's who I am as a human
27 being, as a wife, as a mother, and as a leader
28 at Jenner, I respectfully and confidently and

1 openly want to say to someone who was at last
2 week's meeting -- I don't know if they are here
3 right now -- but one may consider their remarks
4 to have some pessimistic undertones which I did
5 not appreciate, and I'm just being transparent,
6 because it was about my teachers.

7 So I need that person if they are here
8 tonight to just trust this opportunity. Please
9 trust this opportunity because when you have
10 teachers at Jenner who come in early and stay
11 late and come on weekends and teach lessons, we
12 are community lawyers, lawyers from the top law
13 schools and law firms to teach alongside of
14 them, teachers at Jenner who are affiliated with
15 big companies to make huge donations, teachers
16 who are nationally board certified, teachers who
17 give up their personal time to sit with a child
18 to learn about their hopes, dreams, fears,
19 struggles, to learn about the human being.

20 And a teacher who was once (inaudible)
21 for eight years and went back to school to get
22 his degree and (inaudible) one in art is
23 teaching our children right now. And I can go
24 on and on tonight because we have so many
25 teachers like that at Jenner, but that would
26 take a long time and I know we're trying to
27 leave at 8:00 p.m.

28 So I will simply say to that person and

1 even the young lady who left not long ago, I say
2 to all of you, I welcome you to come to Jenner
3 to watch the amazement. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 PRINCIPAL BEYER: I'm Mike Beyer,
6 B-e-y-e-r, principal of Ogden. So I'm here
7 tonight to say I support the consolidation and
8 confident it will work. Our Interim CEO
9 Dr. Janice Jackson and the entire network, we
10 are interested in providing Ogden and Jenner the
11 support we need.

12 I really have so much respect for Ogden
13 and Jenner parents, and while we know that we
14 will do everything in our ability to make sure
15 every child is supported, I also want you to
16 know that I want to make sure the learning at
17 both schools won't be affected and this will be
18 borne by all the research on school
19 desegregation.

20 There are schools with a higher rate of
21 poverty that demonstrates better student growth
22 than Ogden, and also there is a lower rate of
23 poverty that demonstrate worse student growth
24 than Ogden (inaudible) regardless of the
25 demographics, the socioeconomics of the students
26 (inaudible.)

27 Jenner students, like all children, can
28 become the (inaudible) as their peers.

1 (Inaudible) I have also witnessed at Ogden. I
2 no different than my own children. Give them respect,
3 they give it back to you. It's that simple.

4 So for any parent that still doubts
5 this process will work, just know that my
6 livelihood is on the line. Our livelihood is on
7 the line. And when we talk about working hard,
8 I know that my chief will also make sure that we
9 work hard to make it work. That's what we're
10 here for. This is our job.

11 There won't be any excuses, nor will we
12 accept any excuses from teachers, students, or
13 from parents. As you heard from the educators
14 already, they are not going to make any excuses.

15 So with that said, I would like all
16 parents and community members to participate in
17 any and all upcoming meetings and events at
18 Ogden. We have list of all events coming up
19 that are available. We have some handouts
20 and we will pass these out.

21 We invite all Jenner parents, all
22 Jenner children, so regardless of what happens,
23 when we cross our historic neighborhood
24 boundaries, at the very least we will model for
25 our children what it means to be a citizen.

26 Thank you very much.

27 (Applause.)

28 MR. BLAKEY: Good evening, everyone.

1 My name is Randall Blakey.

2 I serve as executive pastor at LaSalle
3 Street Church, executive director of Near North
4 Unity Program and also co-chair of the Jenner
5 Ogden Steering Committee.

6 I want to state first and foremost for
7 the record my appreciation for Alicia Ivy being
8 here this evening. We have known -- since these
9 dates were distributed, we have known that
10 Alderman Burnett was not able to make this
11 meeting. He is in Humboldt Park convening and
12 facilitating a community meeting there, but I
13 appreciate her being here and also appreciate
14 and know we have his full support.

15 I stand here tonight to affirm
16 the commitment to excellence and also the
17 commitment of Jenner teachers as well as Ogden
18 teachers that I have had the privilege of
19 working with over the past three years that we
20 have been working on this effort. They have
21 been overly committed and seriously committed
22 most definitely to the children and to this
23 process.

24 One of the things that we have talked
25 about and we've discussed several times
26 throughout these three years is a quote from
27 Frederick Douglass that states, "It's better to
28 build strong children than to have to repair

1 broken adults."

2 And everyone that has been a part of
3 this process for the last three years has been
4 about that. Our commitment has been completely
5 and totally on the children who are here
6 currently and the children who will be here in
7 the future. If we can continue down that street
8 and stay on that avenue, I think that we will do
9 an excellent job, not only for these children
10 but also for this community.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Joan Moore,
14 J-o-a-n, M-o-o-r-e.

15 I'm an aide at the Jenner school. My
16 townhouse space is the playground over here.
17 I'm also the assistant music director at
18 St. Joseph Church over on Hill Street. I'm
19 basically here to say I'm very much in favor of
20 this. I'm a retired educator. I taught band
21 and choir in three states and I don't know how
22 many buildings, all different levels.

23 If you want to talk about
24 differentiation, I know that what is from the
25 last clarinet player to the first trumpet. At
26 any rate, from everything I've seen here, the
27 students are very respectful to the teachers.
28 They say hello constantly. I'm friends with all

1 the Neighborhood Watch Passage -- Safe Passage,
2 that's what it's called. It's a great
3 neighborhood.

4 I moved from the suburbs to come to a
5 community like this, and I hope that this does
6 progress. It will be good for everybody
7 involved. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. POPE: Good evening. My name is
10 Debbie Pope. I'm a retired 20 plus year
11 educator with CPS. I taught in neighborhood
12 high schools throughout the city. I also worked
13 for the Chicago Teachers Union for a number of
14 years.

15 I have also been in this community
16 during the closing of schools, and I have seen
17 all the evolution demographically,
18 gentrification, changes over the years when I
19 have been living in Chicago. And I think with
20 this school it's a fabulous opportunity for
21 students to learn from each other, for parents
22 to learn from each other, for community members
23 to learn from each other.

24 Chicago is the most segregated major
25 city in the country and this is I would say a
26 very important opportunity for us to show that
27 it doesn't have to be that way. It doesn't have
28 to be economically segregated. It doesn't have

1 to be racially segregated, and the students, the
2 young people are so much better at this than
3 their adult peers.

4 My older daughter was the only white
5 kid in the (inaudible) when there's a variety of
6 students, and it has helped her to become a
7 fantastic person, comfortable with a wide range
8 of people.

9 That said -- and I am very supportive
10 of this merger -- I think it's really important
11 that we get the details right. I think it's
12 really important that we make sure that the
13 teachers all get the training that they need.

14 I think it's really important that we
15 make sure that the teachers are confident in
16 their job security, and I just want to share one
17 thing with you, something that was a very
18 important moment to me in my understanding as a
19 young Chicago Teacher's Union (inaudible). And
20 that is, one of the teachers from Whitney Young
21 Magnet School -- absolutely the top school in
22 the city at that point -- and the school that my
23 kids would be lucky enough to attend, one of the
24 teachers got up, and teachers were being bashed
25 at that point.

26 Now, with that now, it's a little less
27 common and he said, I just want you to know I'm
28 proud of the west side at such and such a

1 school. I don't remember where he had taught.
2 And he said, I taught with wonderful colleagues
3 there. I teach at Whitney Young. The truth is
4 my colleagues at Whitney Young are no better as
5 teachers than my colleagues were at (inaudible).

6 Teachers are dedicated to students and
7 dedicated to learning, and it's not about test
8 scores. It's not about who the parents are.
9 It's about what we believe and what we want for
10 our society. Thank you.

11 MR. METCALF: Thank you. Nos. 31
12 through 40, please approach the podium. If you
13 have Nos. 31 through 40. Thank you. Again,
14 Nos. 31 through 40. Again, make sure that you
15 state your name and spell your name and state
16 your affiliation with either Ogden and/or
17 Jenner.

18 MS. TARA STAMPS: Thank you. Good
19 evening, good evening.

20 Tara Stamps, T-a-r-a S-t-a-m-p-s. My
21 mother said this day would come, and you can't
22 fight the future. And what I want you all to
23 understand, they've already said how amazing we
24 are and I assure you we are all that and more.
25 But I'm born and raised Cabrini. I grew up in
26 every street they named.

27 First class at Sojourner Truth. My
28 mamma closed down Schiller when they weren't

1 treating our babies right. I've been on picket
2 lines my entire life. And all I know is equity,
3 justice, civility, righteousness, freedom for
4 all of our young people, for all of our
5 families. I have the benefit and the blessing
6 of having a principal who I admire, trust, and
7 like. I have the benefit of having a -- I don't
8 know we don't facilitate this administrative
9 hierarchy here, but Beyer.

10 I have to call whenever I have to take
11 issue with something and have a real heart to
12 heart and lay it bare. I say to you, If we're
13 going to be honest, if this is going to be
14 successful, it is critical that we are honest.

15 It's critical that we bring to bear our
16 concerns, our issues, our fears, but that can't
17 stop us from doing the right thing but it's
18 always the right time to do the right thing, and
19 right now this is the right thing to do.

20 Because we do not write the future but
21 we must be included in what happens in our
22 community because this is our home. This is not
23 just about another school merger. There are
24 blood memories in these bricks, and I need you
25 all to pay reverence and respect to that as we
26 go forward.

27 I'm also critically concerned about
28 making sure our teachers keep their jobs. How

1 we use the building, what's going to happen to
2 our returning families who will come back, and I
3 don't know if they were counting in that 5,000
4 number like the woman said earlier, but we got
5 families that will return to their homes and
6 they must be a part of this new reality.

7 I want to ask, what is the
8 administrative structure going to look like and
9 what is the capacity for teachers to be a part
10 of that transition team? It would be awful if
11 we just left that up to someone who doesn't know
12 us and they decide how we move about in our
13 spaces that we must hand over. So I ask that
14 you all go back and revisit that and create
15 basic capacity for families, parents, and kids
16 to be a part of the transition team.

17 (Inaudible.) I didn't appreciate that
18 in the rant. What will the final transition
19 plan look like I think shows reverence for
20 always kind of coming back to say, Okay, we got
21 this on the agenda. I appreciate that kind of
22 transparency. I also want to know who will fund
23 the activities that are necessary to make sure
24 we bridge the gap, that we extend the gap, and
25 that we bridge this bridge.

26 Money will be necessary and it can't
27 come out of that 1.8. I don't know what they
28 are going to do with that. But there are

1 activities that we need to do with our children
2 to merge. There are activities we need to do
3 with our families and parents. There are
4 activities we need to do with other
5 stakeholders. We need to bring other people
6 into this conversation who will be impacted by
7 what happens in our buildings.

8 Thank you so much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. ALVAREZ: Now I feel a little bit
11 like the people after Oprah's speech at the
12 Golden Globes.

13 My name is Tracy Alvarez, T-r-a-c-y
14 A-l-v-a-r-e-z, and I'm a community member living
15 across the street from Jenner. Our first
16 exposure to Jenner was being befriended by
17 Mr. Rob Croston. He taught us the school's
18 slogan to be the N.E.S.T. It means to be
19 neighborly, to stay engaged, be scholarly, and
20 use teamwork, and I'm here to express support of
21 the merger.

22 All of these elements of teamwork;
23 neighbors meeting each other, individuals using
24 their complementary skills and smarts have been
25 in action during these merger discussions.
26 Thank you to the Steering Committee and
27 community members and leaders who have driven
28 these discussions up to this point, and thank

1 you to CPS for being responsive to this
2 community to the input and ideas as we hopefully
3 drive towards the finish line for Ogden and
4 Jenner communities.

5 I want to highlight a few questions
6 that neighbors have presented to me about the
7 future. First, you talked a little bit at the
8 top of the meeting about the preschool. The
9 question is what's the status of the preschool
10 being offered? There are a number of little
11 ones from zero to four living in this
12 neighborhood. People have invested to stay in
13 the city and they are looking for preschool
14 choices.

15 The second question is, the current
16 high school assigned to this neighborhood is
17 Lincoln Park. Would a merger offer a
18 neighborhood choice for the families of
19 either Ogden or Lincoln Park or would the merger
20 change the assigned neighborhood's high school?

21 As a mother of two young girls, I am
22 happy to live in this Near North area that is
23 rich in culture, language, diversity, and
24 stories of generations from many different
25 backgrounds. We want to see CPS support the
26 merger and the ideas from the community.

27 Thank you.

28 (Applause.)

1 MR. HULL: Hi. My name is Paul Hull,
2 H-u-l-l. I am an Ogden parent. Thank you for
3 giving us the opportunity to see the school.
4 It's a beautiful school. It's a new school.
5 It's great to finally have a chance to see it.

6 I come here neither for nor against but
7 merely a question to CPS itself for some data.
8 We definitely now have a plan. We see the plan
9 but no data to support it.

10 So we would ask if there is data to
11 support it, if you would provide it. Especially
12 with the four bullet points on the first page of
13 your proposal, we'd like to see the data that
14 actually supports the fact that, for both
15 schools' sake, that data will support the fact
16 that those goals will be achieved.

17 Will the \$1.8 million over three years
18 be enough? What happens after the three years?
19 Is there money to support this program? I can't
20 imagine that three years is going to be enough
21 to make sure that everybody is protected, that
22 the goals are achieved for this now merged
23 school. What about data to support the fact
24 that, as mentioned before, the Title I funding
25 and Grades 6 through 8 who are given high school
26 funding will be taken away with the merger?

27 How does \$1.8 million compare to that
28 funding over the term period? I also have some

1 data -- I was brought up a little bit before --
2 as to capacity. With Cabrini-Green Development
3 Plan, that brings in 2300 units over the next
4 five years. We're looking at Goose Island being
5 developed, this area being developed. Is there
6 going to be enough space for now this largest
7 school district in Illinois to take on all the
8 students?

9 We have 810 capacity at Ogden East. I
10 think it's 690 here. With the plan it will be
11 810, so we'll be at capacity at Ogden, and 581
12 so there will be room, but will it be enough?
13 What happens if we go over?

14 Parlaying into the high school which
15 was also brought up, the high school functions
16 well but it's not a high school. It's an
17 elementary school converted. Is there any goal
18 to make a high school a much more well
19 functioning high school with size-appropriate
20 facilities, size-appropriate equipment? That is
21 not there yet.

22 With the influx of people, especially
23 with the people that are coming in, what will
24 happen with the high school? We've been hearing
25 about Wells being used instead of Ogden or both.
26 Is there any plan for the high school?

27 Thank you.

28 (Applause.)

1 MR. ARNOLD: Hi. Michael Arnold,
2 A-r-n-o-l-d.

3 Someone made reference from the last
4 meeting, so maybe later on I'll respond, but
5 after the last meeting I asked a lot of
6 questions of CPS and I kind of hoped that you
7 would come back with some answers at this
8 meeting and show us.

9 For those who weren't here, I asked
10 what's in it for the people at Ogden? We're the
11 10th most diverse school out of 600 at CPS. We
12 have a great community that has been built up
13 over the last 20 years with Ogden.

14 The program plan says that the reason
15 this merger should happen and benefit Ogden is
16 that Ogden is overcrowded. The statement was
17 made that the population of Ogden is much
18 different than it is today and it's not
19 overcrowded.

20 To that, I guess hearing a lot of
21 comments, the first thing that came to my mind
22 before I walked up here and the thought went
23 through my mind is there is so much pain in the
24 Jenner community. People have talked about
25 Martin Luther King and racism and segregation
26 and unfair boundaries. I think I'm for the kids
27 and I'm for what most people want to do.

28 Alderman Burnett has been in from the

1 beginning on this, but you can't be honest if
2 you're in the Jenner community and say that
3 you're not being deliberate on those things.
4 We're standing in one of CPS's wealthiest school
5 districts and there is no wealthy kids that go
6 to school here. We are standing in one of the
7 most white boundaries in all of CPS.

8 According to CPS's website, there is no
9 white kids that go to school here. (Inaudible)
10 skeptical or against this merger had some issues
11 with race, and I don't think that that's fair to
12 say about the people at Ogden. It's the tenth
13 most diverse school. So many of us love that
14 diversity and celebrate it.

15 If you think your school isn't good,
16 call Dr. Beyer. He talked to people from all
17 over the community just because they ask.
18 (Inaudible) some committee of 18 people that
19 only has one parent from Jenner on it to tell
20 you what's best for your kids. You don't need
21 (inaudible) parents at CPS to tell you what is
22 best for your kid.

23 You're a member of your own community
24 and you can ask why are we failing? The
25 teacher (inaudible) provocative statements.
26 Thank you so much for listening to me. We only
27 had three people speak against it and apparently
28 no one else wants to speak. So the first thing

1 I would say --

2 MS. TAYLOR: You can sign up again.

3 MR. METCALF: There might be additional
4 time for you to speak. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. METCALF: Finally we have --

7 MS. ARMOR: I'm a parent here at Jenner
8 and grandparent of two children at Jenner. And
9 I just had some questions I wanted to ask.

10 MR. METCALF: Can you do me a favor and
11 state your name and spell it?

12 MS. ARMOR: My name is Barbara Armor.
13 My grandson's name is Tashiwan (phonetic) Armor.
14 I think he met the principal at Ogden. One day
15 he went to a game. Yeah. I'm Tashiwan grandma.

16 I just wanted to note that we don't
17 live in the area, but I do work here and I'm
18 concerned to know if -- will the children at
19 Jenner have to leave if Ogden merger is the end
20 of them because they don't live in the area?
21 Oh, yeah. And I would like for him to please
22 keep his teacher.

23 The teachers here at Jenner are just --
24 I love them. He has been here ever since he was
25 in kindergarten and sometimes he's good and
26 sometimes he is not and they know it. So I want
27 him to keep those teachers. He will be coming
28 out next year so I just -- I'm concerned about

1 that.

2 Other than that, I think the merger is
3 great really. I think it would help the
4 children, parents, and everybody to learn how to
5 negotiate with each other, get along with each
6 other. They'll learn how to do that and they
7 need that. So okay. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. METCALF: Now Nos. 41 through 50,
10 Nos. 41 through 50. If you have Nos. 41 through
11 50, please make your way to the podium. 41
12 through 50.

13 Okay. Thank you very much.

14 MS. CROSTON: Hello. My name is Sheena
15 Davis Croston, S-h-e-e-n-a C-r-o-s-t-o-n. I'm
16 principal Robert Croston's wife, and I just came
17 to say that Principal Croston is very passionate
18 about children having access to equity in
19 education. He was thrilled to be the principal
20 here at Jenner.

21 I remember the first day that he
22 actually waited to get the call. He put on his
23 suit, and he didn't know if he had a job or not
24 but he was hopeful that CPS was going to call
25 him and offer him a position. But more
26 importantly, I stayed home too. And when he
27 opened up his computer and he just said -- and
28 he worked with his suit on and waited for CPS to

1 give him his call. He got the call and they
2 said, Mr. Croston, you expressed concern about a
3 community and we want to offer you the school
4 that you applied for. We have another school
5 that needs a principal and we want to know if
6 you want to go there or if you would consider
7 going there.

8 And he said, I want to be in the place
9 that's right for me.

10 And so he came here to Jenner. We live
11 far, far, far away on the south side and he
12 would commute, probably about an hour in traffic
13 every day and he loved this place. He was
14 passionate about the work that was being done in
15 this community to merge Jenner and Ogden.

16 And I thought it is a great joy to know
17 that the community actually continues to process
18 and do this work and to try to make this merger
19 come to life. It's hard work, but you all
20 haven't given up on trying to figure out how to
21 make this work.

22 So Rob had also come here and he began
23 to transform this school Climate and Culture.
24 He brought the N.E.S.T. He wanted his students
25 to know how to be neighborly, how to stay
26 engaged with school, how to be scholarly, and
27 how to use teamwork. And I really do want to
28 say to Principal Croston, thank you.

1 Thank you, Jenner, thank you, Ogden,
2 and community for continuing to be neighborly,
3 to stay engaged, to be scholarly and use
4 teamwork to bring this merger together. So I
5 thank you. I know it's hard work and you are
6 blessed, and as Rob continues to fight for his
7 life, I just pray that we all will do the right
8 thing in this community and work together and do
9 what is right for the children at Jenner as well
10 as Ogden.

11 So I thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. VITULLI: My name is Lily Vitulli,
14 V-i-t-u-l-l-i. I actually live across the
15 street and I'm hoping to be a future parent of
16 the merged school. I have a three year old and
17 a nine month old, and I'd like to express my
18 support for this merger.

19 I understand that there are concerns
20 and there are challenges with the merger, but I
21 personally believe that anything can be solved
22 if we come together as a community and put our
23 minds together and work on this together. I'm
24 personally excited about the merger. I'm
25 looking forward to sending my kids to a
26 community school and not having to drive them to
27 somewhere.

28 It's something that when we moved into

1 the community, I was excited to have a school
2 right across the street. And we made that
3 decision. We moved in here. We knew it was
4 going to be Jenner, but now it could be Ogden
5 and Jenner.

6 So I'm really hoping for that too. I
7 personally went to a CPS school myself during my
8 elementary years and I went to I would say a
9 diversified school, and I really appreciate the
10 opportunity I had going to a CPS school. I also
11 went to Northwestern which is a little bit
12 different, and coming from that background
13 really helped me I think blossom as a person,
14 and I want the same thing for my children as
15 well as the children in the community.

16 I want to say thank you to everyone who
17 has worked so hard on this. I think just
18 watching this over the past three years --
19 Teresa who spoke earlier has been keeping me
20 updated. And I really, really appreciate all
21 the work that has been going into this to make
22 this happen because at the end of the day it is
23 for our kids and it is for the betterment of the
24 community.

25 I also thank CPS for working on this
26 opportunity. Like I said, I know a lot of our
27 neighbors are looking forward to this, and I
28 wanted to make sure that it's coming across

1 despite the concerns and just the challenges of
2 making this happen.

3 Thank you so much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. METCALF: I do believe that was
6 currently our last speaker that has officially
7 signed up. If that isn't the case, anyone else
8 that has a card, can you please make your way to
9 the podium?

10 I believe that that was the last one,
11 and if that is the case, we would like to take a
12 five-minute break, and then if you would like to
13 sign up again, we will give you an opportunity
14 to complete your comments. We will take it in
15 the order of the new participants first, and
16 then if you spoke before and you wanted to speak
17 again, you will be considered after the newly
18 signed speakers.

19 So the break will be five minutes so
20 that we can keep moving with the public comments
21 section.

22 (Recess had from 7:30 to
23 7:35 p.m.)

24 MR. METCALF: We are getting ready to
25 reconvene. I am going to ask you to take your
26 seats so that we can continue with the public
27 comments section.

28 So we're going to go and get started.

1 Will you please take your seats? Thank you,
2 thank you. We have time left for people to have
3 an opportunity to speak. So now we're going to
4 have speakers No. 50 through 56, speakers 50
5 through 56. Approach the podium, please,
6 speakers 50 through 56. Thank you.

7 Please state your name, spell it
8 slowly, and your affiliation with either Ogden
9 and/or Jenner. Silence. We can start? Thank
10 you.

11 MS. WHEELER: Hello. My name is Sharon
12 Wheeler, S-h-a-r-o-n W-h-e-e-l-e-r. I am a
13 community member.

14 I lived in this community for 23 plus
15 years and I'm also program manager for the Near
16 North Unity Program, and I have the great honor
17 to be a member of the Steering Committee for the
18 Jenner-Ogden merger.

19 I'm going to go back to the
20 organization that I work for, Near North Unity
21 Program, and unity is our goal. It's a lofty
22 goal, but it's what we want for our community.
23 And I'm going to read -- if I can get my iPhone
24 to work -- a quote from Thurgood Marshall that
25 says, "Unless our children begin to learn
26 together, there is little hope that our people
27 will ever begin to live together," and that's
28 Thurgood Marshall.

1 I just want to say that I have heard a
2 lot of positive comments, a lot of people for
3 the merger, which I want to state for the record
4 that I am for the merger.

5 But the comments that were against, the
6 people that stated concerns, it seems they came
7 out of fear, and decisions made from fear are
8 never good decisions. We need to move forward
9 making our decisions of hope and of courage, so
10 I thank everyone, and again it's for the kids.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. DRECZYNSKI: Good evening,
14 everyone. My name is Michele Dreczynski,
15 M-i-c-h-e-l-e D-r-e-c-z-y-n-s-k-i.

16 I am here today once again to formally
17 state my support for the proposed campus sharing
18 merger of the Jenner and Ogden schools. I've
19 been publicly testifying at CPS hearings since
20 2013 and I have been writing letters to CPS
21 about missed opportunities at my neighborhood
22 school here, Jenner, since J.C. Brizard was in
23 office, and that was a long time ago.

24 For far too long the Near North side
25 was divided by political forces that designated
26 housing choices through misdirected policy that
27 sought to segregate people rather than unite
28 them. The segregationist housing policy that

1 created Cabrini-Green also helped to create and
2 maintain neighborhood CPS schools in this area
3 that were racially segregated, as the housing
4 is.

5 Jenner is one of the remaining two
6 schools in this area that has a legacy of
7 segregation. It is time to recognize this
8 legacy of segregation that has caused immense
9 disparity in school access and come to an end,
10 have it come to an end. Please allow students
11 at Jenner the same access to high quality IB
12 education that other children on the Near North
13 side enjoy just seven blocks away.

14 Go over there and look at the Ogden
15 school, look at the Jenner school. There are
16 amazing kids at both facilities and I implore
17 you to give all the kids equal access to the
18 same type of education.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MESSINA: Hello. My name is Frank
22 Messina. I'm a community member and a son of
23 the previous speaker. F-r-a-n-k M-e-s-s-i-n-a.

24 I was here since -- I was adopted, so
25 here since practically one years old. I went to
26 preschool at Salazar or at Wells. And now
27 like -- so my mom had told me about stopping
28 fights at Jenner.

1 Now the opportunity for that to stop
2 and it's a golden opportunity, and I hope that
3 this will possibly go through but -- sorry.

4 So it should go through. Frederick
5 Douglass one said, "Without a struggle, there
6 will be no progress."

7 This started in 2013 apparently or some
8 other time I do not remember by somebody I'm not
9 familiar with. So this could have been a -- not
10 turned out the best because another way is we
11 wouldn't been here, and I think it's not fair
12 for kids exactly like me to not get the same
13 education as people at a different school.

14 So I hope one day this can be a
15 perfectly legitimate school. Sorry. And I mean
16 like -- and I hope one day this will be maybe
17 possibly one of the most terrific schools in the
18 entire City of Chicago.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. SEDA GONZALEZ: Hello. My name is
22 Dharma Seda Gonzalez, D-h-a-r-m-a S-e-d-a
23 G-o-n-z-a-l-e-z.

24 I want to give a shout-out to Frankie
25 for speaking. I think this is inspiring for all
26 of us because this merger is the type of issue
27 that gets a young boy to come out in front of
28 all these adults and speak his mind, and I think

1 we should all give him a round of applause for
2 that.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. SEDA GONZALEZ: Last September I
5 was just a girl at Walter Payton, three blocks
6 away from Jenner, four blocks away from Ogden,
7 with no idea this merger was happening. Then I
8 read an article, and I became inspired at the
9 possibility that somebody had the courage to
10 support an idea like this.

11 Then I researched and found out CPS is
12 only 9 percent white and 84 percent low income,
13 and I became astonished that those are the
14 numbers, but then at the top-performing schools
15 at CPS, it skewed completely differently.

16 What's happening to the rest of the
17 kids? And this merger, I do want to reiterate
18 my complete support for it, but this is only the
19 first step for our Chicago. We are in the most
20 segregated city in America and this is only the
21 first step. There is still that other 84
22 percent low-income students, 91 percent students
23 of color that this merger is not going to
24 encompass, and we need to make sure that
25 equitable education is available for all.

26 (Applause.)

27 MS. SEDA GONZALEZ: And then I also
28 want to address a comment made by a previous

1 speaker that I don't think is here anymore, but
2 she said that because we are expanding this
3 boundary to be possibly the biggest boundary in
4 our city, this is not going to be a community
5 school anymore. And I don't know what the word
6 community means to you, but to me it means
7 encompassing everyone in our neighborhood, in
8 our Near North community, and that is kids from
9 Ogden, that is kids from Jenner, that is kids
10 who in 2011 when Cabrini-Green shut down were
11 forced to relocate and leave their homes.

12 That is kids from families that want to
13 come and move into this area because they see it
14 as an opportunity for a diverse education. This
15 school, the merger, if it happens -- which I
16 really am hoping it will -- will be the epitome
17 of a community and will set a powerful precedent
18 for our Chicago, especially in the context of
19 all the hate and bad sentiments that are going
20 on in our country. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. WAGMAN: Hi. My name is Heidi
23 H-e-i-d-i W-a-g-m-a-n.

24 I'm a community member and a member of
25 Chicago Sinai Congregation. For the past nine
26 years Chicago Sinai has worked closely with
27 Jenner to provide financial and volunteer
28 support for the school. Your draft transition

1 plan makes specific reference to the use of
2 outside organizations to help support the
3 school, so I wanted to speak as one of those
4 outside organizations.

5 My fellow volunteers and I over the
6 years have served as one-on-one reading tutors.
7 We've acted as classroom aides. We've
8 chaperoned field trips, mentored older students,
9 read books with the youngest ones. We've given
10 music lessons. We've led a public speaking
11 workshop, and we've even taught the kids to
12 knit.

13 We've welcomed fathers on the first day
14 of school as part of the Million Father March.
15 We've shared our stories with students on Career
16 Day. We sponsored a daddy-daughter dance that's
17 celebrated with the parents of graduating 8th
18 graders.

19 We are only one of many, many
20 organizations that care deeply about this
21 community. There is a long list of partners
22 that have been there and will continue to be
23 there to provide support to a consolidated
24 school. We appreciate that this merger offers
25 both the Jenner and Ogden students a real chance
26 to have an inclusive, equitable, and quality
27 education.

28 We know that all students benefit from

1 being part of a racially and economically
2 diverse learning environment. Research shows
3 that achievement rises across the board for all
4 sets of students when there is this kind of
5 learning environment. And all of us --
6 students, parents, and teachers -- are enriched
7 by interacting and learning with and from people
8 with different perspectives and experiences.

9 I applaud CPS for taking the
10 opportunity to elevate both schools by bringing
11 these two opportunities together, and I urge
12 that it does so by meaningfully honoring the
13 rich history, culture, traditions, and
14 programming of both schools. This is a chance
15 to bring together what is the best for each of
16 these special places and to create something
17 truly incredible that will enhance the lives of
18 all members of this joint community, and I want
19 you to know that we are here to help.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. McCRAY: My name is Kizzy McCray,
22 K-i-z-z-y M-c-C-r-a-y.

23 First of all, I just want to say I'm
24 overwhelmed with this. It's been three years
25 and enough is enough. It's time for all of us
26 to get together for our children. It's about
27 our children.

28 I got a chance to live at Ronald

1 McDonald House for about a year and a half, me
2 and my daughter. In the years that I was there
3 I was around many, many different backgrounds of
4 family. You have Hispanics, Caucasians, blacks,
5 Asians, Indians. Many, many, different ethnics
6 of families. We were eating bread together. We
7 was having fun together. We was just enjoying
8 all type of activities together.

9 What I don't understand is why is it an
10 issue when it comes to education for Jenner and
11 Ogden? Why is it an issue for our children to
12 merge together for the schools but not when
13 you're in a bad situation, when you're sick,
14 when someone is in a life-or-death situation?

15 It's okay for all of us to come
16 together when you're in need, because when
17 you're sick, when your child is sick, you're in
18 need. You become poor. No one is rich when
19 you're about to die. No one is rich when you
20 have to go to the hospital and stay in a
21 hospital for years and years at a time because
22 they can't diagnose you or they can't help you
23 or your child.

24 We all are in the same situation. So
25 we all experience it and it's okay for us to be
26 together. It's okay.

27 I enjoyed the time at Ronald McDonald
28 House because I got a chance to experience

1 living with everyone and I wanted to say for my
2 daughter's education, my family and I, we were
3 homeless, okay?

4 We told -- so thank you, Dr. Carson,
5 for letting my daughter come back from the west
6 side. We traveled back to Jenner because this
7 is my neighborhood home. I could have chose
8 Ogden. They would have let me in, but I wanted
9 to come back to Jenner because Jenner is full of
10 love.

11 Jenner is a family. And furthermore,
12 we are rich. Every one of our children in this
13 building is rich. We have people like Tara
14 Stamps. We have people like myself and everyone
15 who is trying to get this merger together. That
16 is nothing but wealthy for our children.

17 (Applause.)

18 PRINCIPAL BEYER: I'm Michael
19 B-e-y-e-r. I want to acknowledge that class and
20 race, but especially race, and I want invite you
21 to the February 2nd event. It will be at East
22 Campus, Jacqueline (inaudible), professor, a
23 middle-aged white woman who was a CPD officer.
24 She'll be speaking to our faculty about race
25 because it's a topic that I think we all -- I
26 don't care who you are or where you're from.

27 She'll address racism in our country,
28 and we will all learn that our country was

1 founded on some concepts and some rules and laws
2 that have created cultures. It created
3 segregated boundaries.

4 So I invite everyone out to that speech
5 or that presentation at Ogden East campus.
6 Everyone is welcome.

7 Along those lines, we met with a group
8 of parents from Ogden and Jenner and teachers
9 from Ogden and Jenner right before this meeting.
10 We are planning some potlucks, monthly potlucks
11 every single month where Ogden and Jenner
12 parents will come along and bring a dish.

13 I'm fully confident knowing Ogden
14 parents, Jenner parents. But once we get to
15 know each other, I truly believe you will all
16 get along. You really will. Once you get to
17 know each other, you'll be friends. You might
18 still have disagreements but we will all still
19 get along, be together in the same room, great
20 friends, maybe have a glass of wine. And we
21 already have three local (inaudible) volunteered
22 their space. So in the future very soon a
23 monthly potluck. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. METCALF: You have to go back out
26 to the registration table and sign up again. Do
27 we have anyone else signed up that would like to
28 speak?

1 MS. NEVINS: We will do the signup
2 right up here. That makes it easier.

3 MR. METCALF: Can you come and sign
4 this for me so we know that you signed up a
5 second time? That will be great. Anyone else
6 that would like to? Thank you.

7 MS. SEDA GONZALEZ: Dharma D-h-a-r-m-a,
8 Seda, S-e-d-a G-o-n-z-a-l-e-z.

9 There was just one more comment that
10 was in the back of my mind and I couldn't stop
11 thinking about it. It was why don't Jenner kids
12 just go to Ogden if they want a better
13 education? And for me that's completely the
14 opposite of what this merger is about.

15 It's about mutual enrichment from both
16 communities because that's what a merger is.
17 It's two places coming together to make each
18 other better and I just wanted to say that if I
19 could. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. TARA STAMPS: I signed in. I'm a
22 rule follower. T-a-r-a S-t-a-m-p-s.

23 Of the questions that were asked, how
24 soon will be the answers for some of the
25 particular questions that were brought up? Will
26 that come before or at the final meeting is my
27 question?

28 MS. NEVINS: Ideally I would like to

1 say before, but at the latest we will have some
2 answers by the community meeting. But if we
3 have answers before, I will share them with both
4 administration and staff at both schools. And I
5 think those of you at both schools know that we
6 have come out to LSC meetings, teacher meetings,
7 and we will do that before the public hearing
8 just to give you updates.

9 MS. TARA STAMPS: And also we are going
10 to have a screening of 70 Acres which is about
11 Cabrini, and also it's going to be a double
12 feature. We also have Voices of Cabrini, so
13 that will be used as a fundraiser for the 8th
14 grade trip, so I will make sure that Dr. Beyer
15 gets information about that so you guys can come
16 and hang out with us.

17 Thank you so much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. METCALF: So before this young lady
20 comes up, if you signed in again, make sure that
21 you approach the podium because there is --
22 we're trying to keep up with the numbers and
23 they're a little out of order. So if you signed
24 up again, make sure you approach the podium at
25 this time. Thank you.

26 MS. BREWSTER: Deidre Brewster,
27 D-e-i-d-r-e B-r-e-w-s-t-e-r.

28 Fear. What is fear? Fear is an

1 emotion in the mind. Okay? So we can control
2 what we choose to control in our minds. And,
3 therefore, it will manifest on the outside. I'm
4 on the Steering Committee because I like to
5 control what happens in my community and in my
6 environment.

7 So I have heard a lot of undertone of
8 racism. Over the years I have done workshops on
9 diversity training and just plain old
10 in-your-face awareness of racism. I heard that
11 here tonight. There wasn't racial slurs used,
12 but the undertone was there. Why don't you stay
13 over there and we'll stay over here pretty much
14 is what was said when it was summed up.

15 But I also learned over the years in my
16 teaching that love, love is what is going to win
17 all. Now, love comes in many forms and many
18 different fashions. Love isn't always nice and
19 kind and sweet, and love is sometimes very stern
20 and very direct.

21 So I will directly say to those parents
22 who have fears, please don't take those fears
23 back home and plant them into your children.
24 Leave them in your own head and go get some
25 therapy or something for that. That is a
26 disease that actually needs to be purged.

27 I am sick and tired of tiptoeing
28 around. We will love you, sir, out of your fear

1 and we will love your children as well. But I
2 will not look away. You can cease to use your
3 undertone racism. I love you. Have a nice day.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. METCALF: We had one additional
6 person who signed up.

7 MS. SHERIFF: Hi. My name is Deborah
8 Sheriff, D-e-b-o-r-a-h S-h-e-r-i-f-f.

9 I am a 1st grade teacher here at Jenner
10 and I have had the privilege of working
11 with (inaudible) at Ogden. Our classrooms have
12 been on multiple field trips over the past two
13 years, and working with six year olds, they are
14 pure of heart.

15 So I'm going to end with love because
16 the 1st graders, the first time we went on the
17 field trip together the museum had all kinds of
18 activities planned for them to get to know each
19 other. There was a hill, and that's all they
20 needed. And they did a phenomenal job at the
21 meeting talking about art and then playing
22 together after talking about art.

23 This year we did the same thing, and
24 they did a phenomenal job. The groups were
25 intermixed. You couldn't tell who was a Jenner
26 student and who was an Ogden student.

27 Also, after the last meeting, we came
28 back to school on Wednesday morning, and my 1st

1 graders had all kinds of questions. Are we
2 going to have to go to a new school? Do we have
3 to have new teachers? Are we going to have the
4 same friends?

5 One of my students transferred to Ogden
6 earlier in the year. When I said, "Brooklyn
7 will be there," that was all it took. Yay,
8 we're back together again.

9 So I think that you can think of this
10 as far as how the children look at it and it's
11 not any different from the kindergartners up to
12 the 8th graders. Kids are kids.

13 The teachers are all good teachers, and
14 whether it's -- no matter what school they are.
15 So I am in favor of the merger.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. METCALF: So we are at the end of
18 the hour, but I want to be fair and give anyone
19 that has not come up, but we are at the end of
20 the hour.

21 Please keep in mind that there are
22 folks at the registration table that can answer
23 specific questions around student transitions,
24 social and emotional learning.

25 The public hearing is January 25th from
26 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at CPS's office, and the
27 address is 42 West Madison Street.

28 Again, the public hearing is January

1 25th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the CPS
2 office which is located at 42 West Madison
3 Street.

4 Thank you.

5
6 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:01 p.m.)
7
8
9
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11

12 REPORTER CERTIFICATE

13 I, Marianne Nee, a Certified Shorthand
14 Reporter of the State of Illinois, do hereby
15 certify that I reported in shorthand the
16 proceedings had and the testimony taken, if any,
17 in the foregoing matter, and that the foregoing
18 is a true, complete, and correct transcript of
19 my shorthand notes, to the best of my abilities,
20 so taken as aforesaid.

21 I further certify that this certificate
22 applies to the original and certified
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